

PAR-GYMNASTICS.—An advertisement under this title, in our outside columns, has not caught our eye. Mechanism and apparatus of small compass and bulk, easily managed and stowed away, and while in use promotive of general bodily exercise and health, and not merely strengthening some of the muscles systematically at the expense of others,—thus overturning the equilibrium of a well-proportioned development, and perhaps doing evil as well as good,—is certainly a desideratum, of the accomplishment of which we seem here to have some prospect. The importance of gymnastic exercises is becoming more and more generally recognised and acted on. We observe that a "Juvenile Gymnasium" for the royal children has just been erected in Buckingham Palace, and we hope shortly, by the help of some such convenient apparatus as that now promised us, to find private dwellings and back-grounds as generally supplied as schools are now with apparatus of more cumbersome and unremovable dimensions.

NORTH AND EAST RIDINGS LUNATIC ASYLUM.—The paragraph which you quoted from the *Staffordshire Advertiser* is so erroneous in respect to the cost of this establishment, that I must beg of you to insert the accompanying statement. The asylum is capable of containing 320 patients, and has been in erection, including the farm and garden premises, garden wall, palisades, &c., £1,945l. 13s. 7d. The purchase of about 90 acres of land, furniture, clothing, linen, glass, earthenware, fittings (such as gas, baths, waterclosets, &c.), law expenses, and indeed every charge, amounts, together with the buildings already mentioned, to 49,112l. 10s. 10d., a rather remarkable contrast with the sum of 120,000l. said to have been expended.—**SAMUEL HILL**, Medical Superintendent.

CLEANING BY STREET ORDERLIES.—The report of the surveyor of the City Sewers Commission, on the system of cleansing by street orderlies has been published: from it we gather that while the average cost of dusting and cleansing for the last ten years was, from Michaelmas 1841 to 1843, 3,436l. 2s. 6d. per annum; 1844 and 1845, 3,329l. 17s. 3d.; and 1846 to 1851 (all inclusive), 5,798l. 11s. 6d., the expense of cleansing the whole of the City carriageway upon the street-orderly system, estimated according to the experiences of the experiment made in 1845-6, would have come to an annual sum of 52,052l. From this report it appears that the total area of the carriageway of the city of London was at that time 16,000 square yards; and the area of the footway, 316,000 square yards; making a total of 734,000 square yards.

SCARBOROUGH ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The members of this society met at Lord Londonborough's, on the Cliff, Scarborough, on Monday evening in last week. Some beautiful urns were exhibited, belonging to Mr. Kendall, of Pickering, who sent them over for the occasion. Mr. Richardson, of Hunstanton, also exhibited three beautiful cups, heir looms which have been in his family upwards of 300 years: one of these cups was elaborately engraved out of a solid elephant's tusk. A paper was read by Mr. Tiesman, the secretary, upon the Druid circle on Cloughton Moor, near Scarborough, in which he contended that the so-called Druid circle was nothing more than part of a large cairn or encircled tumulus. A vote of thanks was given to Lord Londonborough, as patron of the society, for his kindness in bringing before the members at all times the most valuable works of ancient and modern art.

USES AND LIMITS OF SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.—At the annual meeting of the Sheffield School of Design, recently held, Dr. Ferguson Branson observed, that the great objects of the school were twofold. In considering one of these objects, that of design, they ought not to overlook the fact that the principal object was the instruction of many who could never hope to be designers, but who might form a class of workmen able to enter into and realise the conception of others, and so give that feeling and spirit to the designs they worked out, which added so much to their value. But

with regard to those, and they must be very few, even in a large number of pupils, who could ever hope to be real designers, he ventured to say that the instruction of schools of design would never make them altogether designers. It would merely put into their hands weapons which they must bring to bear upon the varied objects of nature around them. It gave them eyes to see and hands to work—power to appreciate and select objects of beauty by which they were surrounded—and unless they did that they would degenerate into mere copyists, repeating conventional forms which had existed for ages. He believed in the axiom that no beautiful design was ever invented, the type or principle of which was not found in objects of nature. It was to be able to select these objects that was the ultimate result to be hoped for from schools of design.

CHelsea HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.—The work of filling up the far-famed water gardens, is being rapidly proceeded with, the brick walls forming the sides of the two canals having been cleared away, and when the trees are gone, which they soon will be, the principal Dutch characteristic of this part of the hospital will have entirely disappeared. The reason for the alteration, which is not much relished by the pensioners, is that the whole of the great quadrangle of the hospital may present an imposing appearance from the new park, on the opposite side of the river, and the bridge to which will be approached from near the bottom of the gardens, which will then have been converted into a large open lawn, from which the river and Battersea-park may be viewed most advantageously for a considerable distance. It will also add nearly twenty acres of promenade to the public, who resort there in large numbers in the summer months.—*Morning Advertiser*.

ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY OF THE ARCHDEACONRY OF NORTHAMPTON.—At a committee meeting held on Monday, October 13, the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne in the chair, plans for the re-erection and restoration of the chancel of South Luffeham Church, by Mr. Street, were submitted by the rector, and approved, with slight modification. A design for a new altar table for Wootton Church was exhibited by the rector, and approved. It was stated that plans for the restoration of Ashwell Church, Rutlandshire, and for a new church at Rogby, as also one for re-erection of Oundle Church, were about to be transmitted for the inspection of the committee. The opinion of the committee was also requested regarding Stowe Church. A rough ground plan for the restoration of St. Sepulchre's was submitted, and the vicar was present to ask the aid of the society in the undertaking. The plan embraces the extension of the fabric eastward, leaving the round part free and unincumbered. It was approved, with some alterations.

VICTORIA-PARK.—A correspondent informs us that the Commissioners of Woods intend again to give the usual parliamentary notice for forming the approaches to this park from Hackney-road and Bethnal-green: it is to be hoped this time the commissioners will carry out the work. The plantations in this park are growing luxuriantly: the lakes and other features of the park would all tend to make this a favourite resort, if there were good means of approach with a vehicle. The proposed extension of Hackney-road will make a very fine opening: the handsome Elizabethan lodge and gates will be visible for more than half a mile, and will form a good feature in this approach.

DONCASTER WATER-WORKS.—Various communications reflecting on the decision of the borough engineer have been published in the local *Gazette* by competitors, who enter minutely into details, and complain, on the one hand, some of them of misrepresentation, and others of partiality and of carelessness on the part of the referee. The communications, however, are so voluminous, that we find it quite impossible to afford space even for an abstract of each, and the local paper itself first named has been obliged to intimate that it cannot go on with further or anticipated communications of the same kind, but must deal with them summarily, or in the abstract.

TASTE IN MANCHESTER.—Having seen a notice in your paper of the building of a new Wesleyan non-conformist chapel at Manchester, I took an opportunity of inspecting it a week or two back, and am sorry to find that the erection of the Beeston memorial has not yet led the townspeople to cultivate a more correct taste in building matters. Taking this chapel as a specimen, it is very low indeed. The style of the edifice may strictly be called "Carpenters' Gothic": the windows are of wood, painted and sand-coated (good stone may be obtained within 100 yards of the site), and glazed with sheet-glass in large squares, the whole width of light, and no horizontal bars. The interior is fitted up with deal benches, which look as if some mischievous boys had daubed them over with treacle, and scratched out an oak figure with their finger nails: the trusses appear below the ceiling ornamented with the resemblance of a large turnip; and to finish the description, the pulpit is an ugly deal box, covered with a kind of gingerbread openwork, and a flight of steps on each side.—*Quix*.

STRIKES AT KING'S-CROSS AND VICTORIA PARK.—The bricklayers, carpenters, and labourers employed in building the permanent terminus of the Great Northern Railway, at King's-cross, upwards of 300 in number, struck work on Friday in last week, in consequence, it is said, of the contractors, Messrs. Jay, not paying them for an hour and a half's work short time on the Saturday afternoons, according to custom, unless when the weather permitted of full work, at the rate of ten hours a day throughout the week. In consequence of the great demand for workmen, it is further stated that other firms almost immediately offered work to those on strike, and that Messrs. Jay then agreed to the terms of the men.—Another strike based on the one just noticed has taken place, under precisely similar circumstances, amongst the large body of bricklayers and labourers in the employ of Mr. Myers, contractor for the erection of the new City of London Hospital at Victoria Park.

THE WOODS AND FORESTS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—The new Act, 14 and 15 Vict. c. 42, separates the management of the Woods and Forests from the direction of Public Works and Buildings. Henceforth the salaries and other expenses connected with the two departments will have to be defrayed by money provided by Parliament, and not out of the revenues of the Crown estates. The First Commissioner of the Woods has become the First Commissioner of Public Works and Buildings, at a salary of 2,000l. a year. Her Majesty is empowered by the Act to appoint a Surveyor-General at a salary of 1,500l. a year. The Treasury, after such appointment, may appoint a professional land-surveyor, as an itinerant surveyor. The principal clerks in the office of Works remain as they were. About a dozen employees, however, have been dismissed.

GLASGOW ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.—This association, formed of the draughtsmen and pupils in the various architects' offices in the city, celebrated its introductory soirée on Tuesday, the 7th instant, in Angus's Temperance Hotel, Argyle-street. In the course of the evening, according to the local papers, Mr. Boucher, the president of the association, expatiated from the chair upon the principal object for which the association has been formed—the study of practical architecture and its accessory fine arts. Mr. Couland illustrated its machinery and economy.—essays, professional library, and occasional exhibition of original designs. Mr. Galdarrete pleaded briefly for the fine arts in general; and Mr. Macfarlane commented upon the department "Architecture" in the Exhibition of all Nations.

THE AMERICAN LOCK.—Mr. Garbutt, who undertook to pick one of Messrs. Newell and Day's Parautoptic locks, exhibited by Mr. Hobbs, has returned the lock unopened, after thirty days' possession.

CATHEDRAL AT SYDNEY.—A meeting has been held in Sydney, to promote the erection of a church (St. Andrew's), to serve both as a cathedral and a parish church.